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THE RURAL FIREFIGHTER

Issue 01-11—Feb 2011



Nebraska Forest Service

www.nfs.unl.edu

Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy

The Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy (NWFA) will take place April 9 - 17, 2011, at Fort Robinson State Park near Crawford. This will mark the fourth year for the NWFA and the third academy graciously hosted by Fort Robinson. NWFA is an interagency effort supported by many local, state and federal partners. Courses are offered at just \$30 per course, per person. Lodging and meals are also available at Fort Robinson for as little as \$35/day. NWFA also strives to present most courses on weekends to accommodate volunteer firefighters as much as possible.

Online course registration and payment are available in addition to traditional mail in registration.



Check the Nebraska Forest Service and NWFA Facebook pages for more information. We would encourage early registration as class size is limited and courses may be cancelled if there is not enough interest. Classes are typically 0800 to 1700 daily. This year's courses are listed below. The anticipated schedule is on the next page.

P-101 Fire Prevention Education I

L-280 Followership to Leadership

FI-110 Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders

RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher

S-130/S-190/L-180 Basic Firefighting

S-131 Advanced Firefighter Training

S-133 Look Up, Look Down, Look Around

S-200 Initial Attack Incident Commander

S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use

S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface

S-234 Ignition Operations

S-260 Incident Business Management

S-336 Wildland Fire Tactical Decision Making

S-270 Basic Air Operations

ICS-300 Intermediate ICS: ICS for Supervisors and Expanding Incidents

ICS-400 Advanced ICS: ICS for Command and General Staff and Complex Incidents.

This year, NWFA will benefit from a new partnership with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). NEMA is sponsoring both ICS classes, making them free to attend for NWFA students. The Annual Fireline Safety Refresher and Look Up, Look Down, Look Around classes also have no registration fee.

Full registration information is available on the NFS website or the NWFA page on Facebook. If you have never been to Fort Robinson, it is a beautiful place to attend wildland fire training! Hope to see you there!

Visit the Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/NebraskaWildlandFireAcademy

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New address!

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N
IANR

Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy Schedule

April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14	April 15	April 16	April 17
Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
S-130/S-190/L-180							S-130/S-190/L-180	
S-131	S-133	S-260			S-215			
RT-130				S-336			S-200	
L-280						S-211		
P-101						S-234		
S-270		I-300			I-400		FI-110	

Tips From Tex

As we enter the New Year, have we taken the time to look at and evaluate our Mutual Aid Association or our fire department? Have we thought of ways to improve our mutual aid association as far as attendance at meetings, training events or even updating our mutual aid resource directory? What about the fire department? Do you have a plan for replacing the SCBA, PPE or even that 30-year-old pumper or tender? As a person with the title of president or fire chief, this makes you the leader of your group and the responsibility of getting these things done lies directly on your shoulders. Believe it or not, this is probably the easiest decision that you can make this year and the most sweating and grunting that you will be subjected to will be a couple of hours pushing a pen. The rest of the work (sweating and grunting) is done for free, by the NFS. Namely me.

There are many mutual aid associations out there that have asked to update their directories over the past five years and, I'm still waiting to receive information to begin work on them. I can put some pressure on you and call you out in this article but you know

who you are. There are several fire chiefs who wanted a community plan prepared for their department. How can you prepare a budget if you don't have a plan? Again, I'm still waiting. So, will you take the bull by the horns and get done what needs to be done as a leader or will you just be the person who "holds the title"? Believe me; I understand that it's not all cake and ice cream when you're a leader. But you must also understand that the successes or failures of your organization are a direct reflection on those leading it.

The community plan has always been done at no cost to the fire department and the mutual aid association is only charged for the printing cost of the directory books. The cost normally runs \$200 - \$400, depending on the number of books wanted by each department within the association. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please give me a call or send an e-mail.

At fire school this year, we will again be holding our Elected Officials class on Saturday afternoon as we did last year. We received such a good response for scheduling it that way we decided to do it again. If you have some rural

board members who would benefit from coming to this class, start talking with them now. Class size will be limited to 30. Last year I presented a new class titled "Fire Chief's Toolbox" and had a great showing of people and received some really good feedback from those students. Because of the feedback, I was looking at presenting "Fire Chief's Toolbox II" this year, but during the year and some serious discussions, the NFS has partnered with the NSVFA and NSFSI and will be bringing in Dr. Harry Carter, a nationally known fire service speaker, instructor and leader, to fire school. I have known Dr. Carter for a few years now, and I believe that his class will be an excellent one to attend. Those of you who are members of the NSVFA might even remember reading some of his articles in the newspaper. I am looking forward to having Dr. Carter at fire school and hope you have the opportunity to attend his class. As far as "Fire Chief's Toolbox II," stay tuned.

Until next time, stay safe.

George J. Teixeira II, Fire Manager,
Planning and Management
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On the Web . . .

Wildland fire news and commentary.
www.wildfiretoday.com

Current fire information, photos, jobs,
training. www.wildlandfire.com

The value of volunteer time.
www.independentsector.org

Large wildland fires and other incidents.
www.inciweb.org, www.geomac.gov



Fire Prevention in 2011

The year 2010 is now in the record books. It's time to think about fire prevention in your community for 2011.

With the start of a new year comes a time of re-dedication. Review last year's program and see what you accomplished. Have fire calls diminished? Are dollar losses due to fire decreasing? Can you speak with pride about your prevention efforts for 2010? No? Then it is time to make a change, to have a fresh commitment and begin taking steps in a new direction. You need to act now, not tomorrow or next week.

You have a responsibility to your community and the people who live there. As a firefighter, do you believe in saving lives and property? If you do, you cannot ignore fire prevention and public fire education. It is your job to deliver the prevention message to the people. Take the positive approach instead of brushing fire prevention aside; list the reasons why you should be involved. For starters, try these:

- Family
- Friends
- Relatives
- Neighbor
- Community
- Fellow firefighters

Think about the effect your involvement in fire prevention will have on others. You can reduce the number of fires and

fire losses. When others are not doing anything, it does not mean you can just stand by, doing nothing. You KNOW better than that.

Are you getting the message? Do you see the key to success in preventing fires in your community? That's right—YOU.

Remember, it is your family, your friends, your neighbors and your community. You can make the difference. It is simple. YOU start by doing what is necessary, then you do what is possible...before you know it, you are doing the impossible (St. Francis of Assisi). Remember, the climb up the fire prevention mountain will never be successful until you take the first step.

Are you convinced to join the team by starting a prevention program or by rebuilding a faltering program, but need assistance? Take the first step by calling me (or one of the Partners-in-Prevention). We will help you determine the fire problems—then help you step-by-step develop a successful program. We will direct you to places for materials, teach you to utilize them effectively and efficiently, and then teach you to measure results.

IT IS FIRE PREVENTION FEBRUARY!

Fighting fires without bunker clothes—fire prevention is being proactive. Educate the people in your community to the dangers of fire and how fires can be prevented.

Be the fire prevention leader in your community. Bring the fire prevention message to your community every single day.

Remember—only you can prevent fires. Understand that fire prevention works. Undertake the fire prevention effort all year.

Accept the fact you can reduce the number of fire deaths and fire losses.

Accomplishment is possible if you can act now.

Realizing fire prevention works is your reward for a job well done.

YOU! You are the one who will make the program a success. YOU can do it.

Bob E. Vogltance
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West Point, NE 68788
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2011 Cost Share

Included with this issue of The Rural Firefighter is the 2011 application for Volunteer Fire Assistance (50/50 cost share). Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2011 for consideration. As in past years, grant awards are contingent upon this program being funding at the federal level.



Wildfire Training Email List

NFS has implemented a new way to communicate with Nebraska firefighters—the Nebraska Wildfire Training Listserv. Anyone may sign up to receive (or announce) upcoming wildfire training. The list is moderated to stop spam and ensure only wildland and prescribed fire events are posted.

Signing up is easy. Send an email to:

LISTSERV@UNL.EDU

(note there is no 'e' on listserv)

Type the following in the message field (the subject line may be left blank):

SUBSCRIBE wildfire-training

Do **not** include a signature block, as Listserv will try to interpret each line as a command. The system will automatically reply with information on sending messages, unsubscribing, etc.

If this list is successful, we plan to add a general "fire-info" list at a later date. Let us know how it works for you!



Sandy's Corner



When I was younger, it took 'forever' for a new year to arrive and now that I am older, it

seems all I have to do is turn around and we are in a new year. But I'm not quite ready for the alternative, so I'll continue to rejoice with each New Year and continue working toward completion of my bucket list. With that said, Happy New Year to all of you and may this be a great year for you!

One thing about the New Year is you get to start off with a blank slate, so here is another chance for perfect reporting. Many of you are so very faithful about reporting each and every month (and we thank you), and then there are those who think it really isn't that important. Well, it is important and has a lot to do with the funding we receive. Please make a special effort in 2011 to report all wildfires.

Fire Chiefs and Mutual Aid: I just checked my mutual aid file and it contains 151 mutual aid assistance calls that have not been matched with

a home fire department. Before the yearly report is done at the end of January, I will go through these "one more time" and assign as many fire numbers as I can. If you are one of those reporting a mutual aid and it has not been matched, my recommendation is for you to contact the department you provided assistance to and in a very nice way, ask them about the fire. Until the fire is reported, I am unable to approve it. Sometimes the fire you assisted was not a wildland fire and did not have to be reported, but many of them are. Help me get these numbers down!

This year I am going to make a concentrated effort on getting more of the departments to report online. At a time when budgets are tight, this is one way fire departments can help us save. The cost of mailing yellow cards each month and paying return postage is expensive. I do not see any evidence that postage is going to be going down. If you have a computer/email account, and more and more of you do, then consider reporting online. If your local fire department does not have a computer, then perhaps do as others are doing, ask your village clerk if he/she would be willing to report

the fires. I've assisted two village clerks within the past month who are going to start reporting. If not the village clerk, perhaps someone in your fire department would like to do this. I'm here to help if needed, just call 402.472.6623.

For those still using yellow cards, it is not necessary to tape or staple the cards. I'm discovering they will go through the mail system very well without the tape and it sure does help me out.

Thanks for all you do to make your communities safe.



Calendar of Events

Feb 11-13	Les Lukert Winter Conference, Kearney
Feb 26	3&33 Mutual Aid Assoc. Fire School, Diller
March 31	RT-130 Annual Red Card Refresher, Kearney
April 9-17	Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy, Fort Robinson State Park
May 20-22	Nebraska State Fire School, Grand Island
June	Nebraska Wildfire Awareness Month
Oct 9-15	Fire Prevention Week

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